

LOST



At Press Time:

Search Continues For Missing Malaysia Airlines Jet

This photo shows the actual Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200ER that disappeared from air traffic control screens this weekend. The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200 carrying 239 people lost contact with air traffic control early Saturday morning, March 8, 2014 on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

(AP Photo/Laurent Errera)

CHRIS BRUMMITT
EILEEN NG
Associated Press
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia
(AP) — Vietnamese aircraft spotted what they suspected was one of the doors of a missing Boeing 777 on Sunday, while troubling questions emerged about how two passengers

managed to board the ill-fated aircraft using stolen passports. Interpol confirmed it knew about the stolen passports but said no authorities checked its vast databases on stolen documents before the Boeing jetliner departed Saturday from Kuala Lumpur en route to

Beijing with 239 people on board. Warning “only a handful of countries” routinely make such checks, Interpol secretary general Ronald Noble chided authorities for “waiting for a tragedy to put prudent security measures in place at borders and boarding gates.”

More than two days after Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 went missing, the final minutes before its disappearance remained a mystery. The plane lost contact with ground controllers somewhere between Malaysia and Vietnam. However, expert searchers

in a low-flying plane spotted an unidentified object that appeared to be one of the plane's doors, the state-run Thanh Nien newspaper said, citing the deputy chief of staff of Vietnam's army, Lt. Gen. Vo Van Tuan.

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BILL HOCHSTUHL, A GOOD FRIEND OF ARUBA, HAS DIED

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DESPITE SETBACKS, WALL STREET'S BULL MARKET TURNS 5

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Caricom leaders to debate marijuana legalization

BERT WILKINSON
Associated Press
GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Researchers with a Caribbean trade bloc have found that decriminalizing marijuana and exploring its use for medicinal purposes could help boost the region's sluggish economy. Caricom leaders are expected to talk about the preliminary report in a two-day summit that begins Monday in the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent. The report was released

over the weekend to The Associated Press. Experts said the Caribbean already has a built-in competitive advantage with marijuana cultivation, noting that Jamaican researchers have launched a company that produces therapeutic and cosmetic products derived from the plants. "The region may wish therefore to explore any commercial benefit from a potential multi-billion industry including research and development and also the production of medical

marijuana products," the report stated. Activists in Jamaica, St. Lucia and other islands have pushed to legalize marijuana use, with Jamaica's health minister recently stating he was "fully on board" with medical marijuana. However, many in the Caribbean still consider it a dangerous drug, and marijuana possession can lead to jail time and stiff fines across the region. Caricom spokesman Leonard Robertson said leaders would examine the report next week, but noted

it is not a key issue on the agenda. His comments were echoed by others including St. Vincent Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves. Marijuana has been decriminalized in other parts of the Western Hemisphere. Uruguay recently became the first country to approve nationwide pot legalization, while the U.S. states of Washington and Colorado passed recreational laws in 2012. In addition, 20 U.S. states and the District of Columbia already have medical marijuana laws. □

Biden: Venezuela situation alarming

LUIS ANDRES HENAO
Associated Press
SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden says Venezuela's political and social situation is alarming and accuses Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro of inventing conspiracies by Washington to distract attention from the South American country's troubles. Maduro has faced several weeks of nationwide student-led protests that he claims are an attempt by far-right instigators to overthrow him. The demonstrations have been joined by mostly middle-class Venezuelans fed up with inflation that reached 56 percent last year and one of the highest murder rates in the world. The government says 21 people have died in the street protests since Feb. 12.

"The situation in Venezuela is alarming. The Venezuelan government has a basic responsibility to respect universal rights, which include freedoms of expression and assembly; to protect people from violence, and to engage in genuine dialogue in a deeply divided country," Biden said in an interview published Sunday in the Chilean newspaper *El Mercurio*. Biden's remarks coincided with U.S. objections to a declaration of solidarity for Venezuela issued by the Organization of American States that Washington said contradicted the OAS charter because it was not unanimous and because it stressed non-intervention in Venezuela's affairs above protesting infringement of human rights and free speech. Twenty-nine states voted in favor of the declaration with only the United States, Canada and Panama objecting.

"The situation in Venezuela reminds me of previous eras, when strongmen governed through violence and oppression; and human rights. □

MISSING JET

Continued on from front

Two ships from the maritime police were headed to the site about 60 miles (90 kilometers) south of Tho Chu island in the Gulf of Thailand, the same area where oil slicks were spotted Saturday.

"From this object, hopefully (we) will find the missing plane," Tuan said.

The missing jetliner apparently fell from the sky at cruising altitude in fine weather, and the pilots were either unable or had no time to send a distress signal — unusual circumstances under which a modern jetliner operated by a professional airline would crash. Authorities were checking on the identities of the two passengers who boarded the plane with stolen passports. On Saturday, the foreign ministries in Italy and Austria said the names of two citizens listed on the flight's manifest matched the names on two passports reported stolen in Thailand. "I can confirm that we have the visuals of these two people on CCTV," Malaysian Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said at a news conference late Sunday, adding that the footage was being examined. "We have intelligence agencies, both local and international, on board." The thefts of the two passports — one belonging to Austrian Christian Kozel and the

other to Luigi Maraldi of Italy — were entered into Interpol's database after they were stolen in Thailand in 2012 and last year, the police body said. But no authorities in Malaysia or elsewhere checked the passports against the database of 40 million stolen or lost travel documents before the Malaysian Airlines plane took off.

passport holders were terrorists," Noble said. "Interpol is asking why only a handful of countries worldwide are taking care to make sure that persons possessing stolen passports are not boarding international flights." Troubling details also emerged Sunday about the itineraries of the two passengers traveling on

gen, Denmark, and Kozel to Frankfurt, Germany. She said the pair booked the tickets through China Southern Airlines, but she had no information on where they bought them. As holders of EU passports with onward flights to Europe, the passengers would not have needed visas for China. Interpol said it and national investigators were working



Buddhist monks offer a special prayer for passengers aboard a missing plane, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Sunday, March 9, 2014.

(AP Photo/Lai Seng Sin)

In a forceful statement, the Interpol chief, who has called passport fraud one of the world's greatest threats, said he hoped "that governments and airlines worldwide will learn from the tragedy." "Now, we have a real case where the world is speculating whether the stolen

passports. A telephone operator on a China-based KLM hotline confirmed Sunday that passengers named Maraldi and Kozel had been booked on one-way tickets on the same KLM flight, flying from Beijing to Amsterdam on Saturday. Maraldi was to fly on to Copenha-

to determine the true identities of those who used the stolen passports to board the Malaysia Airlines flight. White House Deputy National Security Adviser Tony Blinken said the U.S. was looking into the stolen passports, but that investigators had reached no conclusions. □

Obama meets with Ukraine prime minister Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will meet this week with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the White House said Sunday, in a prominent show of U.S. support for Ukraine's fledgling new government.

Vice President Joe Biden cut short his trip to Latin America, nixing a planned stop in the Dominican Republic so he can attend Wednesday's meeting, an aide to Biden said. Biden had been the White House's prime point of contact with Ukraine's president, Viktor Yanukovich, before he fled to Russia last month following violent clashes in the capital Kiev. Obama's White House meeting with Yatsenyuk will focus on options to peacefully resolve Russia's military invention in the Ukrainian region of Crimea, the White House said, adding that the resolution must respect Ukraine's sovereignty

and territorial integrity. By inviting Yatsenyuk, whose government Russian President Vladimir Putin alleged took power by way of an unconstitutional coup, the U.S. is also sending a clear signal to Moscow that the U.S. considers Yatsenyuk to be Ukraine's legitimate leader — at least for the time being.

"What we've seen is the president mobilizing the international community in support of Ukraine to isolate Russia for its actions in Ukraine, and to reassure our allies and partners," said Tony Blinken, Obama's deputy national security adviser, as he announced the meeting Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The announcement came as the Kremlin was beefing up its military presence in Crimea ahead of a planned March 16 referendum on whether Crimea should break away from Ukraine and join Russia. Pu-



President Barack Obama finishes talking about the situation in Ukraine in the briefing room of the White House in Washington. Obama will meet this week with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the White House said Sunday, in a prominent show of U.S. support for Ukraine's fledgling new government.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

tin defended the separatist drive as in keeping with international law, but Yatsenyuk vowed not to relinquish "a single centimeter" of his country's territory.

Obama has warned that the vote would violate international law. Biden, who was traveling Sunday to Chile to attend the swearing-in of the country's new

president, Michelle Bachelet, had been expected to travel later in the week to the Dominican Republic to meet with President Danilo Medina. □

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2 dozen injured as California school stage falls

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Investigators combed through a collapsed theater stage at a Southern California high school Sunday, trying to determine why it buckled during a performance that sent 25 students to the hospital with mainly minor injuries.

Police, firefighters and medics responded to a call Saturday night after the wooden stage gave way at Servite High School, an all-boys Catholic school in Anaheim.

About 250 students from nearby Rosary High School, an all-girls sister school, were singing and dancing on the platform when they fell five feet (1.5 meters), Anaheim police Lt. Tim Schmidt said.

Injuries included broken

bones, bruises and scrapes. The likely cause appeared to be too many students on stage and too much weight on the platform, Schmidt said. "It was a weight issue," he said.

Inspectors will double-check the school's stage permit to determine if it's up to date. They will also review whether the permit included a weight restriction or a limit on the number of people who could be on stage. The investigation is expected to take two weeks.

The stage was extended out in the 1980s to provide more square footage, Schmidt said. It was the add-on that collapsed.

"We're lucky that no one was seriously injured," he said. "It was a quick, sud-

den collapse, and the students fell right away."

More than 600 students, parents, faculty and alumni were in the auditorium at the time of the accident.

The students were performing in "Red and Gold," Rosary High's annual musical theater challenge since 1971, in which teams prepare for six weeks to put on choral, dance, drama and other performances, according to the school's website.

"Thank you for your prayers and support during this time," Rosary Principal Judy Luttrell said in a statement posted on the school's website after the collapse.

"We ask that you continue to pray for our students. We thank you all, the Servite community, and the re-



A firefighter assists an injured student after a stage collapsed during a student event at Servite High School in Anaheim, Calif., Saturday, March 8, 2014. Authorities said 30-40 people were taken to hospitals with mainly minor injuries.

(AP Photo/Kevin Warn)

sponders for their calm assistance."

In a statement, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange said it was "an unfortunate accident." The

diocese said an internal investigation was underway.

Servite High School was founded in 1958. Its sister school, Rosary, opened in 1965. □

Ohio: Officer among 3 men killed in nightclub shooting

**AMANDA MYERS
Associated Press**

A gunman opened fire inside a northern Ohio nightclub early Sunday, killing an off-duty police officer and two other men and wounding a fourth man.

Detectives are working to identify the gunman at the Last Call Bar in Fremont, which is about 35 miles (56 kilometers) southeast of Toledo. No arrest has been made.

Police Chief Tim Wiersma said the shooter had been in the bar for some time and may have gotten into a fight with another patron "when things went horribly wrong."

The dead were identified as Elmore police Officer Jose Andy Chavez, 26; bartender Ramiro Sanchez, 28; and customer Daniel Ramirez, 25.

"It is sad that an altercation in a bar went so terribly out of control. I am sad for all of the victims and their tragic deaths," Wiersma said. "All of the victims were from our community and, yes, one being a fellow police officer makes it even harder."

Sgt. Jeffrey Harrison of Elmore police said in a statement that Chavez leaves behind a wife and two young children and had been an "exemplary" officer on the force for more than two years.

A fourth man who was shot at the bar, 25-year-old Ramiro Arreola, was flown to a Toledo hospital in critical condition.

Wiersma asked that any members of the public with more information about the shooting or suspect to come forward. □

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Pre-St. Pat's bash erupts into chaos; 73 arrested

AMHERST, Massachusetts (AP) — A pre-St. Patrick's Day celebration near the flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts spiraled out of control, pitting police in riot gear against thousands of drunken and unruly revelers at the annual "Blarney Blowout." More than 70 people were arrested and four officers were injured in the clashes.

Authorities spent most of Saturday trying to disperse several large gatherings around the UMass campus for the party traditionally held the Saturday before spring break, Amherst police said. The partying carried into early Sunday, and Amherst police Capt. Jennifer Gundersen said police were busy with numerous reports of fights, noise and highly intoxicated individuals and had made 73 arrests.

Gundersen called the day-long partying "extremely disturbing and unsafe."

"Perhaps one of the worst scenes we have ever had with drunkenness and unruliness," Gundersen told The Republican newspaper in Springfield. "It is extremely upsetting. It is very dangerous."

UMass denounced the "unruly behavior" Saturday, and spokesman Ed Blaguszewski said students who were arrested will be reviewed under the school's code of conduct and sanctions could include suspension or expulsion.

The size and scope of the gatherings have led to violence and fights, injuries, severe alcohol intoxication, sexual assaults, excessive noise, property damage and violence toward police and community members, police said.

Most of the arrests came at an off-campus apartment complex, where large crowds began gathering Saturday morning for the event, which was established by bars to allow the students to celebrate the holiday before their spring break begins this week.

Police from the city and university and state troop-



Police detain a participant in the pre-St. Patrick's Day "Blarney Blowout" near the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass., early Sunday, March 9, 2014. Amherst police said early Sunday that 73 people had been arrested after authorities spent most of the day Saturday attempting to disperse several large gathering around the UMass campus for the party traditionally held the Saturday before spring break. The partying carried through Saturday evening into early Sunday, and Amherst Police Capt. Jennifer Gundersen said in a statement that police were busy with numerous reports of fights, noise and highly intoxicated individuals.

(AP Photo/Robert Rizzuto)

ers in riot gear converged on a crowd of about 4,000 people at an apartment complex shortly after noon. Authorities said people on the property were destroying things, and as officers began to disperse the crowd, they were pelted with glass bottles, beer cans and snowballs.

After quieting the disturbance at the apartment complex, several thousand people assembled near a fraternity house. That gathering became dangerous and out of control, officials said, and when officers tried to clear the crowd, they again were attacked with bottles, rocks, cans and snowballs.

Pepper spray was used to disperse the crowd because of the size and "assaultive behavior," police said.

Three officers were hurt when they were hit by bottles, and one was injured while attempting to make an arrest, Gundersen said. None of the officers were seriously injured.

Police say charges included inciting to riot, failing to disperse, disorderly conduct, liquor law violations and assault and battery on officers. Some of those arrested had been released on bail by early Sunday, police said, while others were held, depending on charges. □

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Parties test strategies in special House race

MICHAEL J. MISHAK

Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Florida (AP)

— Voters in this stretch of beach towns and retirement communities provide the first 2014 campaign test of whether Democrats can counter Republican attacks on President Barack Obama's health care overhaul by accusing their rivals of threatening popular benefit programs for the elderly.

Democrat Alex Sink and her allies in the spirited race to replace the late Rep. Bill Young in the U.S. House have spent millions of dollars on TV ads ahead of Tuesday's special election painting Republican David Jolly as an extremist who wants to privatize Social Security and gut Medicare — the government programs that provide retirement benefits and health care coverage to seniors.

Jolly has responded with a TV spot featuring his elderly mother and aunt, in which he says "protecting their Social Security means everything to me."

Jolly argues that it is Sink who would undermine Medicare because of Democratic-passed cuts to the program under the president's health care law.

The suburban St. Petersburg district is considered a proving ground for each party's political messages and a possible bellwether for the November elections when control of Congress will be at stake. Democrats face an uphill struggle to gain the 17 seats they need to regain control of the House of Representatives. Republicans need to pick up six seats to gain a Senate majority, but have a number of opportunities to do so in states carried by Mitt Romney in 2012.

Officials in both parties have said in recent days that private polls show the special House race in Florida to be close. Each party has made late appeals for campaign cash.

Former President Bill Clinton recorded a phone call last week seeking local volunteers to help with

voters favored Obama in the past two presidential elections. In all, the candidates, their party committees and several outside groups have collectively spent almost \$10 million blanketing the airwaves with largely negative ads focused on health care costs and Social Security.

"Those issues are paramount," said Rep. Steve Israel of New York, who chairs the House Democrats' campaign operation. "Having Republicans say that they want to cut Medicare but continue to fund massive subsidies to big oil companies ... that will be a defining theme."



Florida Republican Congressional candidate David Jolly, right, speaks in Indian Rocks Beach, Fla. The special election in this stretch of coastal beach towns and retirement communities was expected to be a referendum on President Barack Obama's health care law. Instead, in the waning days of the spirited campaign to replace the late Rep. Bill Young, another issue has roared to the forefront.

(AP Photo/Steve Nesius)

Sink's campaign and a half dozen House Democrats emailed fundraising appeals to their own supporters on behalf of her. More than a third of Jolly's campaign contributions came from members of Congress. Meanwhile, Republican Rep. Paul Ryan joined Jolly on a conference call with voters, while Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul recorded a phone message for the Republican nominee aimed at supporters of Libertarian candidate Lucas Overby. While Republicans held the congressional seat for four decades until Young's death last year, the district's

Part of the reason is the large percentage of seniors in this district, which is 37 percent Republican, 35 percent Democrat and 24 percent independent. More than one in four registered voters is older than 65, a population that could make up more than half of those who cast ballots. But in an effort to deflect Republican attacks on the health care law and rollout problems, Democrats also plan to prominently feature proposed Republican curbs on Social Security and Medicare in competitive races across the country.

Republicans answer by highlighting how some Medicare payment rates were cut by Democrats to help pay for the health overhaul.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has spent \$1.2 million on ads arguing Sink is "still pushing Obamacare," the 2010 law that it calls "a disaster for families and seniors." Another spot says Sink supports Obamacare "even though it means higher costs and lost benefits," citing reductions to Medicare Advantage, which lets seniors enroll in Medicare through private insurance plans. □

3 Republican prospects spar over Ukraine

EMMARIE HUETTEMAN

© 2014 New York Times

Three Republicans said to be considering presidential runs tried to distinguish themselves on Russia's invasion of the Crimean Peninsula, previewing their approaches to foreign policy in television appearances Sunday.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who won a presidential straw poll at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference on Saturday, promoted a hands-off approach, saying he would warn President Vladimir Putin of Russia that his strategy of supporting the secession of Crimea from Ukraine would prove a "disaster" because of the country's need for uninterrupted oil and gas from Ukraine.

"If they continue to occupy Crimea, if they annex Crimea, Ukraine almost certainly will come completely within the Western orbit," Paul said on "Fox News Sunday." "So it will backfire on them because you'll be taking Russian-speaking voters that have been voting for Russian-speaking presidents of Ukraine - you'll be taking them out of the population."

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who finished second in the conservative straw poll, pushed for tougher sanctions against Russia in an appearance on the ABC program "This Week," saying he disagreed with Paul's approach.

"I think U.S. leadership is critical in the world, and I agree with him that we should be very reluctant to deploy military force abroad, but I think there is a vital role, just as Ronald Reagan did," he said, adding later, "The United States has a responsibility to defend our values." □



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Rand Paul wins CPAC presidential straw poll

STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Maryland (AP)

— High-profile Republicans launched a dual effort to attack Hilary Clinton as prospective Democratic presidential candidate and improve the party's longstanding struggle with women voters at the nation's largest annual gathering of conservative activists on Saturday.

It was the closing act of a Republican summit that highlighted acute challenges for a party that hasn't won a presidential election in a decade.

The 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee, Sarah Palin, offered a message to all women, a group that has backed Democrats in every presidential election since 1988: "Women, don't let them use you — unless you choose to be their political pawn, just their piece of accessory on their arm." The Republican firebrand was among just a handful of women featured on the main stage during the Conservative Political Action Conference, which offers an early audition for party officials weighing a 2016 presidential run and a platform for leading conservatives to put their stamp on the evolving Republican Party. Thousands of conservative activists, opinion leaders and Republican officials flocked to a hotel just across the Potomac River near Washington.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul won the conference's presidential preference straw poll, a symbolic victory that reflects his popularity among conservatives who typically hold outsized influence in the Republican's presidential selection process. Clinton has yet to announce her 2016 intentions, but she is considered

the overwhelming favorite to win her party's nomination should she run.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich charged that Clinton would be "a prison guard for the past" should she become president. Gingrich, a 2012 presidential hopeful.

Rep. Michele Bachmann declared that the former secretary of state "has a lot to explain" should she run for president, raising pointed questions about Clinton's work in Russia and Libya. And she challenged the Republican Party's struggle with women.

Men dominated the speaking program for the first two days of the three-day event until the final day.


The imbalance caught the attention of Washington-based conservative blogger, Crystal Wright, a guest panelist on a discussion on how to attract more women. "Part of it is basic optics. How did we start this conference? With one gender representing the movement of the conservative party," she said, suggesting that women participants shouldn't be "stacked up on one day." After a disappointing 2012 election season, Republican officials acknowledged the need to broaden the party's appeal among the growing bloc of minority voters and women.





"Women are not a 'coalition.' They represent more than half the voting population in the country, and our inability to win their votes is losing us elections," read an exhaustive self-examination released by the Republican National Committee less than a year ago. Ronald Reagan was the last Republican presidential candidate to win a majority of women voters. □



Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., speaks at the Conservative Political Action Committee annual conference in National Harbor, Md., Friday, March 7, 2014. Friday marks the second day of the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, which brings together prospective presidential candidates, conservative opinion leaders and tea party activists from coast to coast.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)



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Mexican city hopes to lure American spring breakers

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

LOREDO, TEXAS/MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP) —

The sidewalks are empty on Alvaro Obregon Avenue. Restaurants and souvenir shops lining the once popular thoroughfare are gutted and shuttered. The sign in front of an abandoned karaoke bar is now ripped and dilapidated, riddled underneath with three spray-painted tombstones. The thousands of spring breakers who flooded over each March from the nearby Texas resorts are gone. The drug war drove them off, leaving a void of tourism in a city that years ago gave up trying to cater to such crowds.

But in the midst of a three-year increase in American tourism in Mexico, commu-

nities along the Rio Grande see potential to win back some of the tourists and revitalize an industry that has gone dormant since the cartel violence erupted south of the border.

In Matamoros, a new tourism director is pouring \$2 million into luring Mexican visitors for Holy Week in April, with an eye toward implementing a similar plan next year that would focus on spring breakers who flock to South Padre Island, Texas. "We used to see waves of people along the main boulevard," said Julio Mejia, who took over as tourism director in December. "But the area wasn't promoted properly."

Matamoros, nestled just south of the Texas border and along the Gulf of Mexico, plans to open a chil-

dren's water park and build a pier at Costa Azul beach to attract tourists from nearby Coahuila and Nuevo Leon states. A more detailed plan will be worked out later for how to attract American tourists next year, but a pivotal part of the endeavor will involve working

a bar and a restaurant remains in business but is seeing less of it.

"If I see a group of three or four spring breakers, I will have to take a picture with them because that would be a rare sighting," Raul Garcia, general manager of the Garcia's com-

pany through Brownsville and cross the bridge to join participants in Matamoros' parade. Together they would march and dance down the city's main avenue toward downtown, where the binational celebration lasted for hours.

Even in Ciudad Juarez,



Ruben Garcia, manager and owner of Garcia's souvenir shop, checks prices on clay dolls in his store in Matamoros, Mexico, Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. In the midst of a three-year increase in American tourism in Mexico, communities along the Rio Grande are trying to win back U.S. tourists and revitalize their tourism industry.

(AP Photo/Olga Rodriguez)

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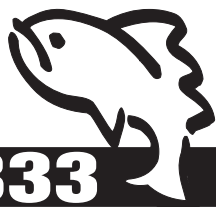


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with business owners to reopen their restaurants and bars.

And as drug-fueled bloodshed subsided in recent years the region's tourism industry hired a U.S. public relations firm and is attracting an increased number of wealthier, middle-aged travelers seeking world-class cuisine and wines in Tijuana and nearby Valle de Guadalupe, which is often called Mexico's Napa Valley. The business climate is bleaker in Matamoros. Its once-thriving tourist market now only offers a few vendors, while nearby a massive complex that houses a pharmacy, a crafts market,

plex, said as two customers perused his souvenir shop packed with colorful clay dolls, ceramic vases and plates.

"It will be difficult (to get them back), but we need to let people know people still live, work and have fun here."

In a sign that fear may be easing, parade participants from nearby Brownsville, Texas, crossed last week into Matamoros to join the annual Charro Days festivities. Such scenes were common several years ago, when floats decorated with the U.S. and Mexican flags, dancing horses and marching bands would parade

where killings have declined from 3,075 in 2010 to 483 last year, officials are making efforts to increase border crossings from El Paso, Texas. Once dubbed the most violent city in the hemisphere, Juarez has opened a visitors' center in El Paso and plans to offer shuttle services from there by the end of this year.

But authorities north of the border are not swayed. A State Department travel advisory cautioning Americans about visiting Mexico remains in place as cities still deal with cartel violence that has kept heavily armed soldiers patrolling the Mexican border. □

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Putin defends separatist drive in Crimea as legal

**JOHN DAHLBURG
LYNN BERRY**

Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday defended the separatist drive in the disputed Crimean Peninsula as in keeping with international law, but Ukraine's prime minister vowed not to relinquish "a single centimeter" of his country's territory.

Over the weekend, the Kremlin beefed up its military presence in Crimea, a part of Ukraine since 1954, and pro-Russia forces keep pushing for a vote in favor of reunification with Moscow in a referendum the local parliament has scheduled for next Sunday. President Barack Obama has warned that the March 16 vote would violate international law. But in Moscow, Putin made it clear that he supports the referendum in phone calls with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Minister David Cameron.

"The steps taken by the legitimate leadership of Crimea are based on the norms of international law and aim to ensure the legal interests of the population of the peninsula," said Putin, according to the Kremlin.

Following an extraordinary Sunday meeting of the Ukrainian government, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced that he will meet with Obama

in Washington on Wednesday on a "resolution of the situation in Ukraine," the Interfax news agency reported. The White House confirmed the meeting.

"Our country and our people are facing the biggest challenges in the history of modern independent Ukraine," the prime minister said earlier in the day. "Will we be able to deal with these challenges? There should only be one answer to this question and that is: yes."

In an emotional climate of crisis, Ukraine on Sunday solemnly commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of its greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko, a son of peasant serfs who is a national hero and is considered the father of modern Ukrainian literature.

"This is our land," Yatsenyuk told a crowd gathered at the Kiev statue to Shevchenko. "Our fathers and grandfathers have spilled their blood for this land. And we won't budge a single centimeter from Ukrainian land. Let Russia and its president know this."

"We're one country, one family and we're here together with our kobzar (bard) Taras," said acting President Oleksandr Turchynov.

Later, Ukrainians in the tens of thousands massed in the Kiev's center for a multi-faith prayer meeting to display unity and

honor Shevchenko. One of the speakers, former imprisoned Russian tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, al-

most burst into tears as he implored the crowd to believe not all Russians support their country's recent

actions in Ukraine.

"I want you to know there is a completely different Russia," Khodorkovsky said. In the eastern city of Luhansk, however, people who gathered in a square to celebrate Shevchenko's birthday were attacked by pro-Russia protesters, and some were beaten up, local media reports said.

Chanting "Russia! Russia!" the demonstrators then broke through a police barricade and took over the local government building, where they raised the Russian flag and demanded a citywide referendum on joining Russia, Channel 5 and other local media reported. But it's Crimea, a strategic peninsula in the Black Sea. □



In this photo taken Saturday, March 8, 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin watches downhill ski competition of the 2014 Winter Paralympics in Roza Khutor mountain district of Sochi, Russia. (AP Photo/RIA-Novosti, Alexei Nikolsky)

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Ahead of Obama visit: US commerce secretary Pritzker in Gulf

AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. Secretary of Commerce is in the Middle East where she said Sunday she will tell officials from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar that closer economic cooperation with Washington is a way to build deeper security

Pritzker said in an interview with The Associated Press during her first leg of the Mideast tour in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi. Saudi Arabia has expressed a desire to build new alliances after outrage over Washington's rapprochement with its regional rival Iran, which Saudi officials said threatens the kingdom's security.

which relies heavily on oil exports to support its economy. The U.S. is also eyeing the spending power of its oil-rich Gulf Arab allies and wants them to boost investments in America as part of the Obama Administration's "Open for Business Agenda." In 2006, UAE-backed port operator DP World abandon-



U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Penny Pritzker, speaks during a business conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, March 9, 2014. Pritzker is in the Gulf meeting with officials in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar with a message that the United States is open for business.

(AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

ties with the United States. Penny Pritzker's visit comes just weeks before President Barack Obama is scheduled to fly to Saudi Arabia to meet King Abdullah in an effort to patch over strained relations due to U.S. policy on Iran and Syria. It will be Obama's first visit to Saudi Arabia since 2009. For Pritzker, it is her first trip outside of North America as Secretary of Commerce. Pritzker, a Chicago billionaire and business executive, was sworn in as Secretary in June of last year. She is the first U.S. Secretary of Commerce to visit the Gulf region with a trade mission in 15 years. Pritzker said her message to the Saudis is that "our American companies want to be here." "I believe businesses can be a bridge for prosperity and security and so that's basically our message,"

Pritzker said her department prioritized this region because the Obama Administration puts a high value on America's relationship with the Gulf. In remarks to business leaders and officials at a luncheon in Abu Dhabi, Pritzker said the U.S. is committed to the Gulf's security and stability, and is working with allies like the UAE through the sales of billions of dollars' worth of defense equipment and fighter jets. "That commitment will not change even as the United States becomes more energy independent. In fact, America has a growing interest in making sure that oil markets throughout the world remain stable and well-supplied," she said. As a result of new exploration technologies, the U.S. will become the world's largest oil producer by around 2020, temporarily overtaking Saudi Arabia,

donated plans to operate in the U.S. after several American lawmakers expressed concerns about Mideast ownership and port security. Pritzker told the AP perceptions in the U.S. have changed since then. "We value these relationships and we value not just our long-standing security relationships, but we also value our economic relationship and that's one of the reasons that I'm here," she said. She is traveling with 21 U.S. companies, including General Electric and Dow Chemical, with a focus on environmental technologies, clean energy and project management. She says that of around 11.3 million jobs supported by U.S. exports around the world, 200,000 U.S. jobs depend on exports to the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. □

Stunning testimony in first week of Oscar Pistorius trial

GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — The testimony in the first week of Oscar Pistorius' murder trial was jaw dropping at times, and more riveting evidence is expected as the prosecution seeks to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the double-amputee athlete intentionally shot dead his girlfriend.

Pistorius' once-inspiring life story unraveled as witnesses testified about his history of anger, infidelity and recklessness with guns, and his suspicious behavior on the night prosecutors allege the Olympian murdered his girlfriend and tried to cover it up.

Pistorius' murder trial — which is being shown on live television across the world — also shed more light on the events in the pre-dawn hours of Valentine's Day last year, when he shot dead Reeva Steenkamp in a bathroom in his home. Pistorius claims it was an accident, but prosecutors have charged him with premeditated murder for the killing of the 29-year-old model.

In a Pretoria court, the first witness said she heard a woman's "blood-curdling" screams coming from Pistorius' house on the night he killed Steenkamp. Michelle Burger, a neighbor of Pistorius, sobbed in court after recalling that she was haunted by what she heard.

Another neighbor, who is a doctor, described in detail the grisly scene he was confronted with when he entered Pistorius' home and found a fatally wounded Steenkamp lying on the floor and Pistorius kneeling next to her, weeping, praying and apparently trying to help his dying or dead girlfriend breathe even though she had a terrible gunshot wound in the head and the doctor knew there was little hope.

In court, Pistorius, 27, held his hands over his ears and hunched over as radiologist Johan Stipp recounted how he could not find any signs of life on Steenkamp's bloody body.

Pistorius shot Steenkamp through a toilet door with a 9 mm pistol, hitting her in the head, arm and hip area and killing her. He says he thought she was a dangerous intruder. Prosecutors, however, say Pistorius killed Steenkamp intentionally after a loud fight. Three neighbors have testified to hearing a woman screaming and a man shouting before gunfire. The celebrated runner, the first amputee to run at the Olympics, faces a life sentence with a minimum of 25 years in prison before parole if convicted of murder.

Pistorius has pleaded not guilty to all the charges against him; murder and three firearm-related offenses. Free on bail, he ended the first week of sometimes damaging prosecution testimony with his now usual routine outside the courthouse of jostling through a gantlet of press and public, flanked by police and security guards who bundled him into an SUV with reflective windows.

"I really thought the state started well, I really did. They are starting with a left hook," said former state prosecutor and now defense lawyer in South Africa, Marius du Toit, who is not involved in the case. "But, of course, the fight never lasts one round."

A former girlfriend, who said she was 17 when she started dating Pistorius in 2011, painted a picture of a man quick to anger who carried a gun with him at all times and who once shot it out of a car after an altercation with police. Samantha Taylor talked about another incident when she said Pistorius once jumped out of a car with a gun in hand to threaten an unidentified person he thought was following them.

Through tears, she also testified that Pistorius cheated on her twice, the second time with the woman he killed. □



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Arab envoys say no to Israel as Jewish state

CAIRO (AP) — Arab foreign ministers on Sunday rejected Israel's demands that the Palestinians recognize it as a Jewish state, saying such a move would undermine the rights of Palestinian refugees.

In a resolution released at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo, the foreign ministers called the issue of Palestinian refugees an integral part of a comprehensive and just peace. It blamed Israel for the floundering of peace negotiations.

The Arab statement offers strong backing to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who said publicly last week he will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state despite facing strong international pressure. Abbas did not identify who is pressuring him.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week the Palestinians must recognize Israel as a Jewish state to show they are serious about peace.

It was the latest sign that despite seven months of mediation efforts by U.S.

Secretary of State John Kerry, wide gaps remain between the two sides.

Abbas is due to meet U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington on March 17, as part of U.S. efforts to press both sides. He has said that the Palestine Liberation Organization recognized the state of Israel in 1993 and that this is sufficient.

Netanyahu has already met Obama.

The current round of talks began in late July, but was plagued from the start by disagreement between Abbas and Netanyahu on the ground rules.

The Palestinians want a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in 1967, and say talks about that state should use the 1967 border as a starting point. That position is backed by the U.S. but rejected by Netanyahu.

The seven-page Arab resolution on the Palestinian issue said it rejects "the demand by Israel and some international parties to

identify Israel as a Jewish state, which aims to annul the right of return and compensation for Palestinian refugees."

It also called for efforts to convene an international conference to address the Palestinian issue, and a reevaluation of the role

of international mediators known as the Quartet, in light of their "failure to make any achievement in realizing just and comprehensive peace."

Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby urged Arab countries during the opening session of the meeting to

take a "firm stand" against the Israeli demand, calling it a deviation from an agreed-upon framework for peace talks.

Elaraby described the demand as an Israeli attempt to foil the talks, calling for a reevaluation of the negotiation track. □



Arab Foreign Ministers meet at the Arab League building in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, March 9, 2014. Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby has urged Arab countries to take a "firm stand" against Israel's demand that the Palestinians recognize it as a Jewish state, calling it a deviation from agreed-upon framework for talks. The Palestinians fear the demand is an attempt to restrict possible return options for Palestinian refugees and the rights of Israel's large Arab minority.

(AP Photo/Ahmed Gomaa)







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Protest smothered after Venezuelan diplomatic win

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — In a major show of force, hundreds of National Guardsmen in riot

gear and armored vehicles prevented an “empty pots march” from reaching Venezuela’s Food Ministry on Saturday to protest now-chronic food short-

ages.

President Nicolas Maduro’s socialist government, meanwhile, celebrated an Organization of American States declaration support-

ing its efforts to bring a solution to the country’s worst political violence in years, calling it a diplomatic victory.

The United States, Canada and Panama were the only nations to oppose the declaration.

“The meddling minority against Venezuela in the OAS, Panama, Canada and the U.S., is defeated in a historic decision that respects our sovereignty,” government spokeswoman Delcy Rodriguez tweeted.

Later Saturday, several hundred student protesters trying to block streets with barricades skirmished with tear gas-firing riot police in Caracas’ wealthy Chacao district in what has become a nearly daily ritual.

There were no immediate reports of injuries as motorcycle-mounted riot police, taunted from apartment buildings, chased protesters through darkening streets. Earlier, more than 5,000 protesters banged pots, blew horns and whistles and carried banners in the capital to decry crippling inflation and shortages of basics including flour, milk and toilet paper. Similar protests were held in at least five other cities.

All over Venezuela, people spend hours every week queuing up at supermarkets, often before dawn, without even knowing what may arrive.

“There’s nothing to buy. You can only buy what the government lets enter the

country because everything is imported. There’s no beef.

There’s no chicken,” said Zoraida Carrillo, a 50-year-old marcher in Caracas.

The capital’s government-allied mayor had refused the marchers a permit to hold the “empty pots” rally, leading opposition leader Henrique Capriles to accuse authorities of trying to criminalize” peaceful protests.

“Nicolas (Maduro) is afraid of the empty pots of our people. He mobilizes hundreds of soldiers against empty pots,” he said of the man who defeated him by a razor-thin margin in April presidential elections.

Capriles also reiterated opposition complaints that the government is sending “functionaries and groups of paramilitaries — which they have armed — to put down protests.”

Maduro has faced several weeks of daily student-led protests across the nation that he claims are an attempt by far-right provocateurs to overthrow him. They have been joined by mostly middle-class Venezuelans fed up with inflation that reached 56 percent last year and one of the highest murder rates in the world.

Late Friday in Washington, the OAS approved a declaration that rejected violence and called for justice for the 21 people the government says have died since Feb. 12 in street protests. □



A woman bangs on a pot in front of Bolivarian National Guardsmen blocking a road to prevent demonstrators from arriving at the Food Ministry, in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, March 8, 2014. Venezuelans returned to the streets for the “empty pots march” to highlight growing frustration with shortages of some everyday items. In Caracas, the march was scheduled to end at the country’s Food Ministry, but the evening before Caracas’ mayor announced that he had not authorized the march.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

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Jamaica:

More drugs seized on Curacao flights

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaican police say they are foiling a rising number of attempts to smuggle drugs to and from the southern Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao. Transnational crime police at Kingston’s international airport said Sunday that three alleged drug mules have been arrested after arriving on a flight from Curacao. The two Jamaican men and one Guyanese man allegedly expelled scores of pellets of cocaine

after being stopped for security screening last week. Days before, a 24-year-old Jamaican woman who allegedly ingested 32 pellets of cocaine was arrested at the same airport after disembarking from a Curacao flight. Several Jamaicans have also been arrested trying to smuggle marijuana to Curacao on recent flights from Kingston, including a 48-year-old man who allegedly ingested three pounds (1.3 kilograms) of pot. □



LG Smith's Steak & Chop House Celebrates 10th Year Anniversary



ORANJESTAD –LG Smith's Steak & Chop House restaurant is ready to celebrate its 10th year anniversary together with its customers. Throughout this month LG Smith's Steak & Chop House will offer different promotions to celebrate this special occasion. For the last 10 years LG Smith's Steak & Chop House has offered the Aruban community and international visitor's excellent service and exceptional culinary experiences. As a sign of appreciation for all the years of loyalty, support and trust, LG Smith's Steak & Chop House offers a 3 course menu for only \$40 starting from March 10th till April 10th. What makes this offer even more special is that the second person can enjoy the same menu for only \$10. Choose between; Certified Angus Beef Petite Filet, Certified Angus Beef Delmonico Ribeye, Surf and Turf, Double-Cut Smoked Pork Chop, Grouper Fillet, Grilled Ashley Farm Chicken Breast, Linguini with seasonal Vegetables or Vegetable Wellington. Not to forget the great selections of high quality meat on the Selection Menu at an affordable price. The special menu doesn't include drinks. In order to provide a great ambience there will be live entertainment every



Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6:30PM with Live Xpressions. The 10th person who enters LG Smith's Steak & Chop House will participate in a raffle to win a \$300 gift certificate. LG Smith's celebrates their 10th year anniversary and invites you to check out its remodeled interior and have a great time with your family and friends at the same time. For reservations call; 523-6195 or visit www.lgsmiths.com, or visit the LG Smith's Steak & Chop House facebook page and stay on top of all offers and latest events. □

William "Bill" Hochstuhl, a good friend of Aruba, has died

- Author of "German U-Boat 156 Brought War To Aruba February 16, 1942"

By Clyde R. Harms
ORANJESTAD - During the 13 years William "Bill" Hochstuhl spent in Aruba, he worked for, and par-

ticipated in, a myriad of island activities. He became well known for his radio appearances and as MC at official LAGO and Govern-



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ment functions. His involvement with sports on Aruba took many forms: He refereed professional boxing matches, he officiated and played baseball and softball; he broadcast play-by-play of Lago Sport Park events and helped coach basketball to Arubans attending Lago Vocational School.

More than these activities however, Bill was most interested in working with, and being part of, the Aruba community. An Aruban paper reported: "[Bill] endeared himself to the Aruba youth through his keen interest in the various youth organizations and the cooperation extended to these organizations. Bill's interest in the Aruba youth was reflected in the feature articles on the Aruba Esso News devoted to the youth organizations on the island..." And for these efforts the government presented him with the "Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba" Award on October 25, 1964. The presentation was made at the Tanki Leendert Youth Club, one of Bill's favorite organizations.

It was as a member of the Public Relations Department of Lago Oil & Transport Co. that Bill Hochstuhl authored the account of the U-156 attack on Aruba. The story was first published February 16, 1962 in a special edition of the Aruba Esso News to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the attack. Forty years later Aruba Scholarship Foundation published the story in book form to raise funds to help Aruban students. Here again Bill showed his love for Aruba. Forfeiting all his monetary compensation, he wrote: "After all these years I find it great pleasure...that in some small way I can contribute to --- the education of... grandchildren of my Aruba friends". Before he died Bill was told that he will help "the grandchildren of his Aruban friends" in a much bigger way, as the book has re-

cently been translated into Papiamentu and will become part of the Aruban schools' curricula. Bill Hochstuhl was a member of the "greatest generation" serving as a Navy pilot in Greenland and assigned to duties in the North Atlantic during World War II. After the war he earned a B.Sc in Journalism at Ohio University. Surrounded by his family, Bill Hochstuhl passed away peacefully at the age of 90 on Sunday March 2, 2014 in Middletown, NJ. He is survived by his wife Eileen Sivori Hochstuhl whom he married almost 70 years ago; by his children Jane and Bill Getty, Jessica and Rich Nicoletti, Jennifer and John Hinck and Jill Fabel whose husband Bill had predeceased her; 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Bill is also survived by his brother Paul Prentice Hochstuhl.

Bill Hochstuhl was buried on Thursday March 6th, 2014 with a private funeral Mass and a public Memorial service with military honors at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Red Bank, NJ. Two uniformed naval representatives ceremoniously presented the nation's flag to Bill's widow Eileen and taps was played afterward. Bill's grandson Lt. Col Matthew Getty, an Air Force pilot who served in Iraq and Afghanistan flying a Lockheed C-5 Galaxy cargo plane, gave a moving eulogy. Singing the beautiful hymn Lord, when you came to the seashore, Bill's eldest daughter Jane revealed the love for Aruba she inherited from her Dad.

Electronic messages of condolences sent to my address clydeharms@yahoo.com will be forwarded immediately. Condolence cards and messages can also be directed to Mrs. Eileen Hochstuhl, 230 Dwight Road, Middletown, New Jersey, 07470. Please send any monetary donations to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas, 66675. □

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Snapper for \$20, you wish it was Monday every day! Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was only logical Chef Marc Hernandez likes to go wild when it comes to his cooking. Caught in the morning, served at night is the true Bugaloe way, maybe this explains its popularity from the start.

Crazy Fish Monday is served from 5.30 p.m. till 10 p.m. Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is open daily from 9 a.m. till midnight. Start your day of right with a delicious cappuccino, or walk in to enjoy

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Reed on a roll, wins a World Golf Championship

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Florida (AP) — Patrick Reed built a big lead on the front nine and held on for a one-stroke win at the Cadillac Championship on Sunday, showing off a great short game when the pressure was building.

Equipped with a two-shot lead, the 23-year-old American wisely played the final hole at Doral conservatively.

He two-putted for bogey and closed with an even-par 72 for a one-shot victory over Bubba Watson and Jamie Donaldson of Wales. Reed became the youngest winner of a World Golf Championship, his third win in his last 14 tournaments.

Tiger Woods, only three shots behind going into the final round in his best chance this year to win a tournament, said his back flared up after an awkward shot out of the bunker on the sixth hole.

He failed to make a birdie in the final round for the first time in his PGA Tour career, and his 78 was his worst Sunday score ever.

Reed is expected to go to No. 20 in the world ranking. In his own ranking, he feels he belongs much higher.

He cited an amateur career that includes going 6-0 in matches to lead Augusta State to two collegiate titles, followed by three PGA Tour wins in sev-



Patrick Reed celebrates his one stroke victory during the final round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 9, 2014, in Doral, Fla. Reed won the tournament with a four-under-par 284.

Associated Press

en months.

"I don't see a lot of guys that have done that besides Tiger Woods and the legends of the game," Reed said.

"I believe in myself, especially with how hard I've worked. I'm one of the top five players in the world. I feel like I've proven myself."

Since 1990, only Woods, Phil Mickelson, Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia had three PGA Tour wins before turning 24.

Reed has had a share of the lead going into the final round of all three of his victories — the Wyndham Championship last August, the Humana Challenge in January and a World Golf Championship at Doral that featured the strongest field so far this year.

Watson, who won at Riviera three weeks ago, went bogey-free over the final 27 holes, a strong performance on the overhauled Trump National Doral. He closed with a 68, finishing with par after blasting through the palms, into the grandstand and back into the rough.

Donaldson birdied the 17th to get within one shot of the lead. At the 18th he hit into the back bunker, blasted out inside 15 feet and missed the par putt. He closed with a 70.

Continued on page 20

Alvarez rebounds by stopping Angulo in 10th

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Frustrated in his big fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr., Canelo Alvarez found a much easier target in Alfredo Angulo.

Alvarez battered a game but outclassed Angulo on Saturday night before

stopping him with an uppercut that prompted referee Tony Weeks to move in at 47 seconds of the 10th round of their junior middle-weight fight.

Alvarez (43-1-1) never was able to put down Angulo (22-4), but hit him throughout the fight with hard combinations that almost

always found their mark. By the middle rounds, the only suspense left was whether Angulo could go the distance.

The fight was in marked contrast to the last bout for Alvarez, who was dominated by Mayweather in the richest bout ever. But while Mayweather was the mas-

ter of defense, Angulo was there to be hit all night long — and Alvarez did just that. "Tonight, I was the best fighter and definitely rebounded from the Mayweather fight with my performance," Alvarez said.

Angulo, who was never close to going down, protested when Weeks moved

in to stop the fight after a big left uppercut to the head. Before the 10th round began, Angulo's corner had pleaded with the ring doctor to give their fighter one more round to try and turn things around.

Continued on page 22

Keselowski edges Earnhardt on last lap in Las Vegas

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Brad Keselowski surged ahead on the final lap when Dale Earnhardt Jr. ran out of fuel, claiming a dramatic victory in Sunday's NASCAR race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Earnhardt's Chevrolet sputtered and slowed out of the second turn, and Keselowski roared past him on the backstretch in his Penske Ford for the first weekend sweep in his career. Keselowski followed up Saturday's Nationwide Series victory with his first Las Vegas Cup win, doing it in exhilarating fashion against the friend and mentor who gave him his first big break in racing.

"That's what you live for as a driver, at least I do," Keselowski said. "Those moments where you're side by side, and you lay it all out on the racetrack and bring back the car with the tires smoking, engine smoking, and you're worn out inside because you gave it all you had. It was one of those races there at the end."

Keselowski knew all about the fuel shortage faced by Earnhardt and Carl Edwards, who both made their final pit stops about 10 laps before him. So Keselowski decided to force the

issue, getting around Edwards and pushing for the lead so Earnhardt would be forced to abandon his conservative, fuel-saving lines.

Earnhardt and his Hendrick Motorsports ride were just a few ounces of fuel shy of earning their second victory in three races to start the season, having won at Daytona.

"We were trying to save as much as we can and make it work, but we knew we were short," Earnhardt said. "We wouldn't have finished second if we didn't have that strategy."

Paul Menard finished third in his Richard Childress Racing Chevy in front of Keselowski's teammate, pole-sitter Joey Logano. Edwards was fifth in a Roush Fenway Racing Ford, and Earnhardt teammate Jimmie Johnson came in sixth.

Keselowski, the 2012 Sprint Cup champion, virtually assured himself of a spot in the Chase for the Championship — with its 2014 emphasis on wins rather than points — after missing it entirely last season.

"It's just such a reliever for everyone on the team to get that win in early, and be able to enjoy the races and opportunities that we have instead of being stressed out about them," Keselowski said. □



Brad Keselowski holds up the Kobalt 400 trophy after winning a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race on Sunday, March 9, 2014, in Las Vegas. Keselowski overtook Dale Earnhardt Jr. on the last lap when Earnhardt ran out of fuel.

Associated Press

Burling scores winner as Chivas USA beats Fire 3-2

CARSON, California (AP)

— Bobby Burling headed home in the 88th minute to give Chivas USA a 3-2 home victory over Chicago in their Major League Soccer season opener on Sunday. Chivas was playing its first game since MLS last month purchased the franchise rights from the owner of Mexican club Guadalajara.

Erick Torres put Chivas ahead with a 56th-minute penalty after drawing a

foul from Fire defender Gonzalo Segares, and rookie Thomas McNamara finished Leandro Barrera's near-post cross three minutes later.

Substitutes Benji Joya and Quincy Amarikwa scored as Chicago leveled the scores with about 20 minutes to go.

Joya, a rookie, scored on his first touch of the game in the 64th minute, about 30 seconds after coming on. □

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Reed

Continued from page 18

Reed finished at 4-under 284, matching the highest winning score at Doral. Mark McCumber won at 284 in 1985.

Reed, Donaldson and Watson were the only players to finish under par.

Dustin Johnson, who lost momentum around the turn, made double bogey on the 18th hole for a 72 and tied for fourth with Richard Sterne (71). Woods' performances are less than encouraging heading toward the Masters. He has played only four tournaments: missing the 54-hole cut at Torrey Pines, tying for 41st in Dubai, withdrawing after 13 holes in the final round of the Honda Classic last week, and then fading badly on Sunday. He is scheduled to make only one more start — Bay Hill in two weeks — before Augusta National.

The other guy in the red shirt and black pants played like he knew what was doing with the lead. Reed left no doubt early that it would be his tournament to win.

His two-shot lead dwindled to one after a bogey from the bunker on the second hole, and that was as close as it got until it no longer mattered. □



Patrick Reed holds The Gene Sarazen Cup after winning the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 9, 2014, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press



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CASINO AND SHOPS

U.S. relay team sets indoor world record for title

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

SOPOT, Poland (AP) — Perhaps people know Calvin Smith Jr. and even then likely because his father was a famous runner a generation back. And David Verburg ran on the 4x400 world outdoor gold medal team last year. But Kyle Clemons? Kind Butler III?

Like so many on this U.S. team at the world indoor championships which was low on glamor yet deep in talent, they produced beyond expectations on Sunday and now have a 4x400 indoor world record to show for it.

When everyone expected the three-day event to peter out without a world record, suddenly this quartet made a name for each and every one on the team. "These are moments you really have to cherish," Butler said.

"We are never going to be here again."

The four sprinters got the baton around in a time of 3 minutes, 2.13 seconds, slashing .70 off the 15-year-old indoor mark set by another U.S. relay team at the 1999 world indoors.

The U.S. beat Britain into silver and Jamaica took bronze.

"The combination of these guys is amazing. They brought it out of me," said



United States relay team with Kind Butler, David Verburg, Calvin Smith and Kyle Clemons, from left, celebrate after winning the 4x400m relay with a new world record during the Athletics World Indoor Championships in Sopot, Poland, Sunday, March 9, 2014.

Clemons, who already took bronze in the individual 400. The record gave the U.S. team eight gold and 12 medals overall, more than double the total of runner-up Russia, which had three gold and five overall.

The U.S. team won 10 gold and 18 overall two years ago, but that was such an outsize record performance that no one thought it would be possible again.

Yet, when it came to gold, the Americans came pret-

ty close with a slew of little-known names.

"We never lose runners, lose people. We just keep reloading," said Clemons of the U.S. athletics program.

The first U.S. gold Sunday came in the women's 800, where Chanelle Price did all the frontrunning and refused to fade over the final two laps, as she disregarded the massive cheers of the home crowd that was pushing for Angelika Cichocka.

Then the 4x400 women's team led from start to finish to easily win the relay ahead of Jamaica and Britain.

And in the wide-open 60 hurdles, Omo Osaghae dipped at the line to beat two Frenchmen in a world leading 7.45. Pascal Martinot-Lagarde was .01 back and Garfield Darien a further .01 second in a tight finish.

It was the perfect setup for the concluding relay record.

Associated Press

Nacer Bouhanni wins 1st stage of Paris-Nice race

MANTES-LA-JOLIE, France

(AP) — Frenchman Nacer Bouhanni overcame a sore knee to win the first stage of the Paris-Nice race in a sprint finish on Sunday.

Bouhanni needed treatment from the race doctor several times for cuts to his left knee after falling during the stage, but this did not hinder him for speed as he won by more than a bike's length.

"What a day. I fell halfway through the stage. For an hour after the fall I kept feeling a strain on my knee

every time I tried to accelerate," Bouhanni said. "I went to see the doctor two or three times. In the end I didn't feel anything because of the adrenaline." German John Degenkolb led the pack in the final stretch as the riders prepared to go for the line. Belgian rider Gianni Meersman attacked with about 100 meters to go and Bouhanni responded immediately to surge past him. Degenkolb then overtook Meersman, who finished in third place.

The 162.5-kilometer (101-mile) stage started and finished in the Parisian suburb of Mantes-la-Jolie.

The top three all clocked 3 hours, 53 minutes, 11 seconds.

Frenchman Christophe Laborie opened up a lead of nine minutes after an early solo breakaway but was caught with 50 kilometers (31 miles) remaining.

American rider Tejay van Garderen, one of the race favorites, dropped out during the stage after feeling unwell.



France's Nacer Bouhanni reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the first stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race, in Mantes la Jolie, west of Paris, Sunday, March 9, 2014.

Associated Press

"At night, I had all these stomach cramps, and bad diarrhea all day yesterday and then a little bit of a fever and no appetite," he said. "It felt like my sick-

In Sunday's top individual race, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce kept the 60 meter title in Jamaica with the fastest run by anyone in four years.

The double Olympic 100 champion finish in 6.98 seconds, beating Murielle Ahoure of Ivory Coast by .03 seconds. Tianna Bartoletta of the United States took bronze.

Veronica Campbell-Brown was the double defending champion but still too rusty to be at her best as she was only cleared at the last moment to compete at the championships after a doping scandal had sidelined her since last summer. The result proved Jamaica's sprint credentials again, but overall the day and the championships again belonged to the United States.

No one was as overwhelming as Genzebe Dibaba on the last day. The Ethiopian breezed to a gold medal in the 3,000 meters, failing to add a third world record in a season but clinching a long-distance title after the 1,500 two years ago.

Dibaba knew from the start she was in a league all her own, and when she took charge at the half-way point only a few could match her pace. With a kick for home with two laps to go, Dibaba immediately created a yawning gap. □

ness was getting better and today, I woke up and I felt OK. But I was really just empty. I couldn't take in calories and just had nothing in the muscles." □

Lions owner William Clay Ford dies at 88

LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — William Clay Ford, the last surviving grandchild of automotive pioneer Henry Ford and owner of the Detroit Lions football team, has died. He was 88.

Ford Motor Co. said in a statement Sunday that Ford died of pneumonia at his home in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Ford helped steer the family business for more than five decades. He bought one of his own, the National Football League franchise in the Motor City, a half-century ago.

He served as an employee and board member of the automaker for more than half of its 100-year history. "My father was a great business leader and humanitarian who dedicated his life to the company and the community," William Clay Ford Jr., executive chairman of Ford Motor Co. and Lions vice chairman, said in a statement. "He also was a wonderful

family man, a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him, yet he will continue to inspire us all."

Ford was regarded as a dignified man by the select few who seemed to know him well.

To the masses in Detroit, he was simply the owner of the Lions who struggled to achieve success on the field despite showing his passion for winning by spending money on free agents, coaches, executives and facilities.

Ford's first full season leading the Lions was in 1964, seven years after the franchise won the NFL title. The lone playoff victory he enjoyed was in 1992. The Lions are the only team to go 0-16 in a season, hitting rock bottom in 2008. After an 11-year drought, the Lions improved enough to make the playoffs in 2011 only to lose a combined 21 games over the next two



In this Oct. 26, 2008, file photo, Detroit Lions owner and chairman William Clay Ford walks on the sidelines prior to an NFL football game against the Washington Redskins in Detroit.

Associated Press

seasons.

"No owner loved his team more than Mr. Ford loved the Lions," Lions President Tom Lewand said in a statement released by the team.

"Those of us who had the

opportunity to work for Mr. Ford knew of his unyielding passion for his family, the Lions and the city of Detroit. His leadership, integrity, kindness, humility and good humor were matched only by his desire to bring a Su-

per Bowl championship to the Lions and to our community.

"Each of us in the organization will continue to relentlessly pursue that goal in his honor."

Born into an automotive fortune in 1925 bearing what was already a household name, Ford was 23 when he joined the Ford Motor Co. board of directors in 1948, one year after the death of his grandfather, Henry Ford.

He maintained as low a profile as his name would allow, serving on various executive committees and spearheading the design, development and introduction of the Continental Mark II in 1956. He was elected a Ford vice chairman in 1980 and retired with that title in 1989. Ford remained a company director until 2005, later taking the title of director emeritus.

"Mr. Ford had a profound impact on Ford Motor Company," Ford CEO Alan Mulally said in a statement. "The company extends its deepest sympathies to the many members of the extended Ford family at this difficult time. While we mourn Mr. Ford's death, we also are grateful for his many contributions to the company and the auto industry." □

Alvarez

Continued from page 18

"I'm upset because they should have let the fight go on," Angulo said. "I'm fine and I was fighting."

Angulo never stopped going forward, but he paid a price, taking shot after shot to the head as Alvarez teed off seemingly at will. Alvarez won all but one of the first nine rounds on two ringside scorecards, and two on the third. The Associated Press had him winning eight of the first nine rounds.

Ringside punching stats were just as lopsided, with Alvarez landing 295 punches to 104 for Angulo.

The ending was booed by many in the crowd that filled the MGM Grand arena for the junior middleweight showdown between the two Mexican fighters. There was no title at stake, but the 23-year-old Alvarez seemed determined to win big to erase memories of the loss to



Saul Alvarez of Guadalajara Mexico, left, trades punches with Alfredo Angulo of Mexicali Mexico during their super welterweight boxing match, Saturday, March 8, 2014, at The MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Alvarez won by TKO when the fight was stopped by referee Tony Weeks.

Associated Press

Mayweather, the only one of his career.

He landed the first left hook he threw seconds into the fight and it was quickly apparent that Angulo would have no answer for his speed and power.

"He wanted to please the fans because he felt in the Mayweather fight he

let a lot of people down," promoter Richard Schaefer said. "Canelo was not satisfied with just the win. He came to make a statement and you saw that." Alvarez was already a big star when he met Mayweather in September, but the red-haired fan favorite was frustrated by May-

weather's defense and lost almost every round. He said before this fight that he learned a lot against Mayweather, and vowed to show it in his comeback fight. The only time Angulo even seemed to be in the fight was in the eighth round when he landed some good punches to the head and kept advancing. But Alvarez came back to dominate the ninth round, prompting the ring doctor to look at Angulo between rounds to see whether he could continue.

"I was so secure in my jab and my stamina was there," Alvarez said. "Of course I was a little tired, it's boxing. But I was ready to finish the fight and even go 10 more rounds."

Alvarez was guaranteed \$1.15 million to \$850,000 for Angulo. The purses were adjusted when Alvarez agreed to pay \$100,000 to Angulo on Friday to raise the weight limit to 155 pounds from 154 because he couldn't make the original weight. □

No consensus on how to notify data breach victims

ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The data breach at Target Corp. that exposed millions of credit card numbers has focused attention on the patchwork of state consumer notification laws in the U.S. and renewed a push for a single national standard.

Most U.S. states have laws that require retailers to disclose data breaches, but the laws vary wildly. Consumers in one state might learn immediately that their personal information had been exposed, but that might not happen in another state, and notification requirements for businesses depend on where their customers are located. Attorney General Eric Holder has joined the call for a nationwide notification standard, but divisions persist, making a consensus questionable this year.

"We're stuck with the state-by-state approach unless some compromise gets done at the federal level," said Peter Swire, a privacy expert at Georgia Tech and a former White House privacy official.

Despite general agreement on the value of a national standard, there are obstacles to a straightforward compromise:

—Consumer groups don't want to weaken existing protections in states with the strongest laws.

—Retailers want laws that are less burdensome to comply with and say too much notification could cause consumers to tune out the problem.

—Congress is looking at different proposals for how any federal standard should be enforced and what the threshold should be before notification requirements kick in.

The issue gained fresh urgency as part of a larger security debate after data breaches involving retailers Neiman Marcus and Target. Target, the second-largest U.S. retail discount store, has said 40 million credit and debit card accounts were exposed between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15.

The company went public with the breach on Dec. 19, several days after it said it learned of the problem and soon after the news began leaking online. Since then, sales, profit and stock prices have dropped, the company's chief information officer has resigned and banks and retailers are facing continued scrutiny about what more can be done to protect consumer data.

The Justice Department is investigating the data theft, and Holder urged Congress in a video statement last month to adopt a national notification standard that would include exemptions for harmless breaches.

"This would empower the American people to protect themselves if they are at risk of identity theft. It would enable law enforcement to better investigate these crimes and to hold compromised entities accountable when they fail to keep sensitive information safe," he said in the statement.

Such proposals have been around for years.

An Obama administration plan from 2011 would have required businesses that collect personal information on more than 10,000 people in any 12-month period to disclose potentially harmful breaches and for breaches that affect more than 5,000 people to be reported to consumer credit reporting agencies and the federal government.

Past congressional efforts to agree on a standard have failed. Currently, 46 states and the District of Columbia have their own breach notification laws, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Proposals now before Congress would require notification. But there are differences in what information the notification would provide, the threshold for notifying regulators and law enforcement, and the proposed enforcement. Some bills seek criminal penalties for deliberately concealing

a breach; others do not.

Consumer groups fear that any national standard could turn out to be weaker than the strongest state laws, such as one in California that requires a business or state agency to notify any state resident whose data was improperly obtained.

"From industry's perspective, whether you're a bank or a merchant, you don't want to have to notify consumers," said Ed Mierzwinski, consumer program director at the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. "They want to preempt, or override, the best state laws." □



In this Feb. 4, 2014, file photo, Peter Swire, of the Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technology, testifies before the House Judiciary Committee's hearing on Recommendations to Reform FISA Authorities, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Associated Press

WikiLeaks' Assange talks NSA, hints at more leaks



Fugitive WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange speaks via Skype at the South By Southwest Interactive festival in Austin, Texas, Saturday, March 8, 2014.

Associated Press

BARBARA ORTUTA

AP Technology Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Fugitive WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, speaking over Skype from the Ecuadorian embassy in London, said his living situation is a bit like prison — with a more lenient visitor policy. He also hinted that new leaks are coming from WikiLeaks, though he gave no specifics on what these might be. Assange, who has been confined to the embassy since June 2012, discussed government surveillance, journalism and the situation in Ukraine on Saturday in a streaming-

video interview beamed to an audience of 3,500 attendees of the South By Southwest Interactive festival in Austin, Texas.

Assange's hour-long remote appearance was spiked with technical glitches. As the audio cut out, he sometimes asked audience members to raise their hands if they could hear him. Benjamin Palmer, the co-founder of marketing firm The Barbarian Group who interviewed Assange, at one point resorted to texting his questions.

Looking well-groomed in a white shirt, scarf and

a black blazer, Assange blasted President Barack Obama's administration, saying it was not taking fellow secrets leaker Edward Snowden's revelations about the National Security Agency's surveillance activities seriously.

"We know what happens when the government is serious," he said. "Someone is fired, someone is forced to resign, someone is prosecuted, an investigation (is launched), a budget is cut. Assange's appearance at this five-day conference — which will host Snowden in a similar remote interview Monday from Russia which granted him temporary asylum — signal the growing concern in the tech community around issues of online privacy, surveillance and security, even as Internet giants like Google and Facebook reap billions in advertising revenue from collecting information about their users.

"Now that the Internet has merged with human society and human society has merged with the Internet, the laws of the Internet become the laws of society," Assange said, adding that the NSA's "penetration of the Internet" has led to a "military occupation" of civilian space. □

Despite obstacles, Wall Street's bull market turns 5

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Happy 5th birthday, bull market.

The current bull run is not the longest, or strongest in history, but it has survived a near default by the U.S. government, a debt crisis in Europe, and a civil war in Syria.

Despite all the obstacles thrown in its way, this bull market is now the fourth-longest since 1945, according to S&P Capital IQ. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 178 percent in the five years since it bottomed out on March 9, 2009.

A bull market is a rise of 20 percent or more over a period of at least six months, following a decline of 20 percent or more. The run-up over the past five years has been helped by stimulus from the Federal Reserve, record corporate profits, the economic recovery and companies repurchasing their own stock. The current bull had a tough start to 2014. In January, the S&P 500 index fell 3.6 percent on concerns about slowing growth in China and other emerging markets. Investors also worried about the strength of the U.S. economy. This month, the market has been rattled by events in Ukraine, where the region of Crimea is preparing for a referendum on whether to split away and join Russia. President Barack Obama and several other Western leaders have condemned the referendum.

Despite the latest setbacks, stocks recovered and the S&P 500 index closed at a record high of 1,878.04 on Friday.

There have been 11 bull markets since 1945. The longest one stretched for almost a decade, between October 1990 and March 2000. The average bull market lasts 4-1/2 years, making the current one longer than average. The last bull market ended in October 2007, as the financial crisis was taking hold. The S&P 500 index dropped 57 percent from a record high of 1,565.15

on Oct. 9, 2009, before bottoming out at 676.53 on March 9, 2009.

Typically, bull markets end when investors get spooked by a recession, or anticipate one, and sell stocks. None of that is happening, which suggests this bull may have room to run yet. The economy appears to be strengthening rather than faltering. Corporate profits are at record levels. The job market is gradually

cheap, but it's not expensive either, so I think the market continues to move higher until further notice," Manley says.

The bull market's gain is above the average advance of 141 percent for S&P 500 bulls. But it is well short of the 417 percent jump from October 1990 to March 2000.

Here is what's changed since the bull run began:

THE SPOILS

the five-year bull market are a drugmaker, a hotel company and a broadcaster. Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, which is developing an experimental asthma drug, has climbed from \$12.40 in March 2009 to \$328.11 on Friday. That's a cumulative return of 2,546 percent, making it the best-performing stock since the start of the rally. Wyndham Worldwide, a hotel and lodging compa-

est U.S. supplier of wholesale electric power, has dropped from \$43.84 to \$29.82 as electricity prices have fallen.

THE ECONOMY

When the stock market hit rock bottom, the economy was struggling, too. Jobs were harder to find five years ago and the U.S. had yet to emerge from the Great Recession. Economic growth has since strengthened, but the recovery remains slow.

When the bull market began in March 2009 the unemployment rate was 8.7 percent. It rose to 10 percent in October that year, its highest level in 26 years. It has since fallen, and was 6.7 percent in February.

COMPANY PROFITS

S&P 500 companies earned an average of \$60.81 per share in 2009. Those earnings are projected to almost double to \$118.16 by the end of this year, according to S&P Capital IQ data. Corporate profits have climbed as companies have cut costs and demand has revived.

NEW FACES

Twitter shares now trade in the stock market, following its initial public offering in November. Facebook had a \$16 billion IPO in May of 2012 and became a member of the S&P 500 in December. Outside of social media, luxury clothing and accessories maker Michael Kors has been one of the more successful market debutants. Its IPO was in December 2011 and it joined the S&P 500 in November.

RETURN OF THE RICH

Like the stock market, billionaires have also staged a comeback.

In 2009, the number of billionaires in the world shrank by 30 percent to 793, with an aggregate wealth of \$2.4 billion, according to Forbes. The latest list of billionaires published last week shows that their ranks have more than doubled to 1,645, with a combined wealth of \$6.4 trillion. □



A screen at a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the S&P 500 Index, Friday, March 7, 2014. The Standard & Poor's 500 managed a small gain, enough to set its latest record high. Despite fiscal deadlock in Washington that pushed the U.S. to the brink of default, a major debt crisis in Europe, slowing growth in China and innumerable crises from Syria to Ukraine, stocks have kept moving higher. On Monday, March 10, 2014, the bull run enters its sixth year.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

improving and consumer confidence is rising.

Inflation also remains low. When the Fed starts to worry about rising prices, it hikes interest rates to curb them. The higher rates can tip an economy into recession and prompt a sell-off in stocks.

But with inflation under control, the Fed has stressed that it plans to keep its key short-term rate near zero for an extended period. Stock valuations remain in line with historical averages, says John Manley, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Fund Management. The price-earnings ratio for the next twelve months, which measures stock prices compared with forecast earnings, stands at 15.5, slightly below its 20-year average of 16.4.

The stock market is "not

Since starting its advance in March 2009, the S&P 500 has handed investors a total return, including reinvested dividends, of 209 percent. If you'd played it safe and invested in bonds, your total return would be 28 percent over the same period, according to the Barclays U.S. aggregate index, which tracks the broader debt market. If you'd played it even safer and invested in short-term government debt, certificates of deposit and other short-term debt securities, your return would be even smaller. Fidelity's money market fund, which makes such investments, returned 4.1 percent over the same period.

BEST PERFORMERS

The best-performing stocks in the S&P 500 index during

ny that owns the Ramada and Days Inn, has soared from \$3.10 to \$75.70 as demand for hotels revives. The company has also raised its dividend. CBS has climbed from \$3.09 to \$67.40 as advertising revenue increased.

THE LAGGARDS

Among stocks still in the S&P 500 index since the start of the bull market, the worst performers are a solar panel maker, a mining company and a supplier of wholesale electric power. First Solar's shares are down from \$108.36 to \$56.11, a drop of 48 percent. The company has struggled to adapt to sharply lower panel prices. Newmont Mining has dropped from \$37.79 to \$24.60, hurt by falling gold and copper prices. Exelon, the larg-

FireEye corp. unloads more shares for \$1.1 Billion

MICHAEL J. de la MERCED
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With the Target hacking scandal, Edward Snowden and Chinese cyberattacks all in the news, there could hardly be a better environment for FireEye, the security software company that went public last fall.

Now, with its stock having risen fourfold since its market debut, the company is taking advantage by selling more shares.

The secondary offering raised \$1.1 billion, as FireEye sold 14 million shares for both itself and some of its earlier backers. Among those selling are FireEye's founder, Ashar Aziz, and chief executive, David G. DeWalt, as well as Norwest Venture Partners.

It's the latest big news for the 9-year-old company, which specializes in defending against computer attacks by reading Internet

traffic for potential threats. In January, the company bought Mandiant, a leading responder to hacking attacks, for more than \$1 billion, a deal paid for in part with stock.

Those shares have leaped, making the company's offering one of the most successful by any computer security provider. Pricing at \$20 a share in its IPO, FireEye's shares have reached as high as \$97.35. (Its shares

were down 9 percent, to \$81.04 a share, after trading Friday, largely because of the new stock entering the market.)

DeWalt said in an interview this weekend that during an abbreviated road show for the secondary offering, investors continued to show strong interest in the company.

"Every single investor believes that cybersecurity is critical," DeWalt said. "Fire-

Eye is the leader in that domain."

With its share of the offering proceeds - nearly \$458 million - the company plans to continue expanding, especially internationally. Among the areas the company plans to focus on are protecting mobile devices and cloud services, both of which are in need of stronger security. While FireEye plans to continue building out its offering. □

Comcast challenging Disney's hold on tourism trade



A Comcast cable truck works in front of a home in Mount Lebanon, Pa. Comcast Corp. will invest hundreds of millions of dollars in California and Florida theme parks, stepping outside its core business of telecommunications in an effort to boost revenue and profits.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Comcast Corp. will invest hundreds of millions of dollars in California and Florida theme parks, stepping outside its core business of telecommunications in an effort to boost revenue and

profits.

In a story published Sunday, The Philadelphia Inquirer said recent moves by the Philadelphia-based, cable-TV company represent a challenge to the Walt Disney Co.'s tourism business

in Orlando.

Comcast took over Universal Orlando Resorts as part of its NBCUniversal acquisition in 2011. This summer, it plans a new Harry Potter ride at a second theme park that will share the

same 750-acre (300-hectare) Universal complex.

Comcast is also financing construction of the 1,800-room Cabana Bay Beach Resort with 50-50 partner Loews Corp., allowing guests to eat, sleep and swim on the same Universal complex.

Once fully open later this year, Cabana Bay will boost Universal's hotel room count in Orlando by 75 percent, to 4,200 rooms. The first 600 are scheduled to open this month.

CEO Brian Roberts said Comcast is "doubling down on theme parks" because the investment will pay off for many years to come. "We think there is a lot there in the theme park business for many years to come, and that we have the low market share and only one way to go," Roberts said at an investor conference in January.

In 2013, Comcast's theme

parks and resorts unit, part of NBCUniversal, reported \$2.2 billion in revenue and \$1 billion in operating cash flow — a measure of the division's profitability.

Between the second Potter attraction and Cabana Bay, the Universal theme park complex is expected to add 3,500 jobs this year, bringing its Orlando-area employment to about 17,000. Universal executives in Orlando do not say they are targeting Disney, the tourism giant with more than 20,000 hotel rooms and four theme parks. But they believe there is additional revenue — more room stays, more visitors, and more themed merchandise to sell them.

"We don't have to win," Thomas L. Williams, chairman and chief executive officer of Universal Parks & Resorts, said in a recent interview. "We just have to get our share." □

Vodafone said to submit bid for Ono

MARK SCOTT
© 2014 New York Times

LONDON - Vodafone is turning out to be a persistent suitor.

The British telecommunications giant has submitted a tentative offer for Spanish cable company Ono that values it at around 7 billion euros, or \$10 billion, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The prospective bid entailed fast-tracked due diligence by Vodafone over the weekend. Ono's board

meets Thursday to consider whether to approve an initial public offering, and a formal offer would have to be submitted before the meeting, the people said. Rumors have circulated in recent months that Vodafone would make an offer for Ono,

which would allow Vodafone to compete with Telefónica of Spain to offer high-speed broadband to its Spanish customers.

Despite the interest, Ono's board has repeatedly stressed that it continues to focus on a potential IPO.

"The major reason for the IPO is to have financial flexibility," Ono's chief executive, Rosalía Portela, said in an interview Wednesday. "The bigger you are, the easier it is to get capital." But bankers and analysts have said that the company's shareholders - which include private equity firms like Providence Equity Partners, CCMP Capital Advisors and Thomas H. Lee Partners - may prefer a sale to a larger telecoms rival over a potentially risky listing on the Madrid stock exchange. □

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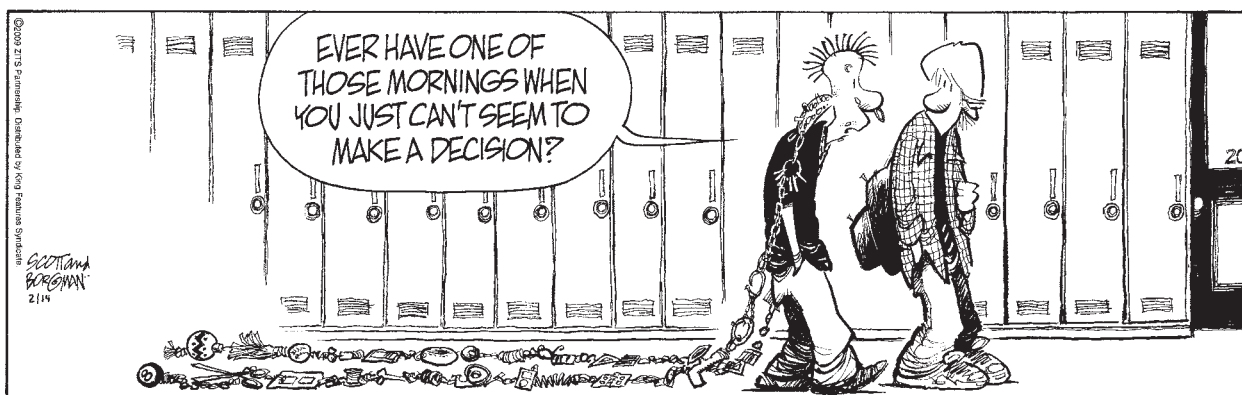
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2			9	4			3
	3					5	
			1	8			
6	4				7		9
7	8				6		4
			5	9			
	2				6		
4			3	6			8

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

2/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	1	9	7	5	4	6	3	8
3	6	4	8	1	9	2	5	7
8	7	5	6	2	3	9	1	4
4	5	8	9	6	1	3	7	2
7	2	6	4	3	5	1	8	9
1	9	3	2	8	7	5	4	6
9	8	1	3	4	2	7	6	5
6	3	7	5	9	8	4	2	1
5	4	2	1	7	6	8	9	3

ACROSS

- 1 up with; tolerate
- 4 Riding the __; hobo's activity
- 9 Rush __; begin impetuously
- 13 Perched upon
- 15 Mysterious
- 16 Complain
- 17 Overdue
- 18 Smell
- 19 __ weevil; cotton plant destroyer
- 20 Large letters on a newspaper's front page
- 22 Like a leaky fountain pen
- 23 Arrived
- 24 Taxi
- 26 Cast members
- 29 Blood sugar disorder
- 34 Use tweezers on eyebrows
- 35 Stringed instruments
- 36 Eminem's style
- 37 Sound the horn
- 38 Comedienne
- 39 Long story
- 40 TV's " __ Got a Secret"
- 41 Loses color
- 42 Wolves' cries
- 43 Abandoned
- 45 Actor Dafoe
- 46 Building site
- 47 First-place Olympic medal
- 48 "Beat it!"
- 51 Absolutely necessary
- 56 Actor Johnny
- 57 Reigned
- 58 Heroic tale
- 60 Toward shelter
- 61 Wipe away
- 62 City in Nevada
- 63 Goodhearted
- 64 Talk out of
- 65 Make clothes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14	15				16			
17				18				19			
	20			21				22			
			23			24	25				
26	27	28			29	30		31	32	33	
34				35				36			
37				38				39			
40			41					42			
43			44				45				
			46			47					
48	49	50		51	52	53			54	55	
56				57				58		59	
60				61				62			
63				64				65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/14/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

KNEW	OPERA	IRON
NOVA	SOAPS	BANE
ONES	PERMANENCE	
BEN	ARMS	URGED
	HIRES	SKI
SCANTY	BLEACH	
PANTS	SARAS	HOC
UNDO	DENIM	SITE
DOE	DANTE	PINED
EDWARD	CIRCLE	
	ATE	SHUSH
BARRE	SEAS	ILK
CROISSANTS	BLUE	
DOPE	AGATE	ALLY
EWER	LEGOS	HALS

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2/14/14

DOWN

- 1 Chum

- 2 Orem's state
- 3 Large handbag
- 4 Kingdoms
- 5 Eagle's nest
- 6 Press, as clothes
- 7 Citrus fruit
- 8 Picture of the ocean
- 9 Drink
- 10 Lunchtime
- 11 Discussion
- 12 Exclusively
- 14 Bird with vivid tail feathers
- 21 In the __; uninformed
- 25 Stomach muscles, briefly
- 26 Crop-killing bug
- 27 Piece of garlic
- 28 Melodies
- 29 Old; passé
- 30 Part of the eye
- 31 Fish with a net
- 32 Bird of prey
- 33 Sudden muscle contraction
- 35 Gap; opening

- 38 Raggedy
- 39 GI
- 41 Expert
- 42 Sword's handle
- 44 Fled and wed
- 45 Brand of bread
- 47 Waterbirds
- 48 Pierre's state; abbr.
- 49 Prefix before copter or pad
- 50 Not locked
- 52 Certain
- 53 Bench board
- 54 Chimpanzees and gorillas
- 55 Queue
- 59 Calf's mother

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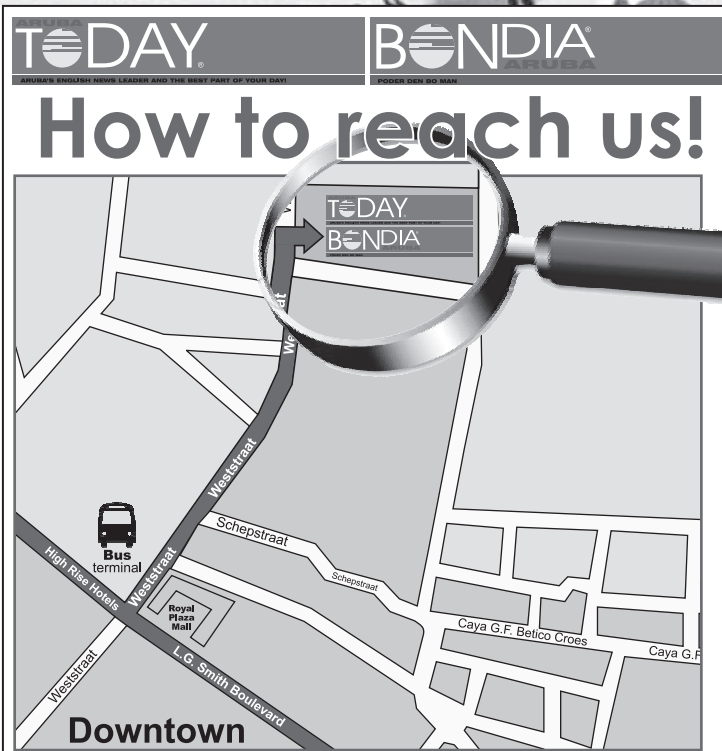
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Japan sees future business in Fukushima cleanup

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — There is something surprising in the radioactive wreck that is the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant: opportunity. To clean it up, Japan will have to develop technology and expertise that any nation with a nuclear reactor will one day need.

Eyeing dozens of aging reactors at home and hundreds of others worldwide that eventually need to be retired, Japanese industry sees a profitable market for decommissioning expertise.

It may sound surprising, given all the ongoing problems with the coastal Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, including massive leaks of contaminated water and other mishaps that followed its devastation by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

But many experts and industry officials say the experience and technology such as robotics being developed can be used in any decommissioning in the future.

That could represent new opportunities for Japan Inc., which has lost some of its global clout to competitors from countries such as South Korea, China and the U.S.

"There is decommissioning business here beyond Fukushima and it's a worldwide business," said Lake Barrett, a former U.S. nuclear regulator who headed the Three Mile Island cleanup. "I think it's an exciting new area," he said. "Japan can be a world leader again." Japan's government hopes an offshoot will a boom in the country's nuclear technology exports.



This aerial file photo taken in Aug. 2013, shows No 4, 3, 2, 1, 5 and 6 reactors, from bottom to top, at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Futaba town, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.

Japan on Tuesday marks the third anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters known as 3.11 that killed 15,884 people and left 2,636 unaccounted for in vast areas of its northern coast. The country has struggled to rebuild tsunami-hit communities and to clean up radiation from the nuclear crisis, and has earmarked 25 trillion yen (\$250 billion) for reconstruction through March 2016. About 50,000 people from Fukushima are still unable to return home due to concerns over radiation.

Despite the Fukushima meltdowns that experts say are far more challenging to deal with than the 1979 Three Mile Island meltdown, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is eager to sell Japan's nuclear plants and technology overseas. He boasts that Japan can offer the world's highest safety standards that re-

flect lessons learned from Fukushima.

More than 400 nuclear reactors are already in operation in more than 30 countries, with dozens more under construction. More new reactors are expected, including hundreds planned in China alone by 2050.

Tokyo Electric Power Co., the utility that runs Fukushima Dai-ichi, is setting up a separate company in April to clean up the plant.

Tentatively called the Decommissioning Company,

it is overseen by the government's economic ministry and could evolve into a decommissioning organization for other plants at home and abroad. Academics, construction giants, electronics makers and risk management firms are rushing to get on the bus.

Japan also created the government-funded International Research Institute for Nuclear Decommissioning, or IRID, last year. It brings together nuclear plant operators, construc-

tion companies and organizations of nuclear experts to promote research and development of nuclear decommissioning technologies, as well as cooperation between international and domestic organizations.

IRID has received 780 proposals for funding from around the world for ideas and technologies related to the treatment and management of contaminated water, as well as 220 others about retrieving the three melted cores.

Japanese companies including Toshiba Corp., Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Hitachi have been developing robots that can monitor radiation, decontaminate, remove contaminated debris or repair damage, and some of them have been mobilized at the plant.

Standard decommissioning has been largely carried out by human workers. IRID Managing Director Kazuhiro Suzuki said the robotics technologies being developed to probe and remove Fukushima's melted fuel could benefit ordinary decommissioning, not just severely damaged reactors.

"Decommissioning of aging reactors is an imminent task that all nuclear plant operators face," he said.

Mark Kelly, twin brother enlisted for NASA study

PHOENIX (AP) — Astronaut twins Mark and Scott Kelly will help NASA study the effects of spaceflight on the human body. NASA announced Friday that the twin brothers will participate in 10 different investigations. Craig Kundrot, deputy chief scientist of NASA's Human Research Program, says in a news release that the brothers provide a unique opportunity to study two people with the same genetics who were in different environments. Officials say Scott Kelly spent a year in space while Mark Kelly was on Earth. NASA says it is hoping the studies can be the



This undated photo provided by NASA, astronauts Mark Kelly, right, STS-124 commander, and Scott Kelly are pictured in the check-out facility at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Associated Press

basis for future research initiatives. Mark Kelly is the husband of former U.S. Rep Gabrielle Giffords, who has

been recovering after being shot in the head in 2011 in her home district of Tucson, Arizona.

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'300' sequel rules box office with \$45.1M debut

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The shirtless warriors of the "300" sequel "Rise of an Empire" ravaged the post-Oscars box-office weekend with a domestic debut of \$45.1 million but an even bigger international haul of \$87.8 million.

Seven years after the original "300" became an unlikely, ultra-stylish, blood-soaked sensation, Warner Bros.' 3-D follow-up showed considerable might at the box office. While "300: Rise of an Empire" didn't come close to the North American debut of Zack Snyder's 2007 original (\$70.9 million and without the benefit of 3-D ticket prices), it performed like a blockbuster overseas.

"Rise of an Empire," which with flexed torsos and lots of bloodshed further chronicles the ancient battles of the Greeks and Persians, led a busy box-office weekend that also saw an Academy Awards bump for "12 Years a Slave" and one of the highest per-screen averages ever for Wes Anderson's European caper "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

Though "300: Rise of an Empire" is excessively macho, Eva Green — the film's fiercest presence — may have drawn females for what was always going to be a male-centric release. Whereas the female audience for the first "300" was only 29 percent, it was 38 percent for "Rise of an Empire."

"Talk about female empowerment," said Jeff Goldstein, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., of the "Casino Royale" actress.

Noting the popularity of 3-D and IMAX screenings for the movie, Goldstein credited the visual panache of producer Snyder (Noam Murro took over directing), who drew directly from Frank Miller's graphic novels: "He brings a lot to the screen that mesmerizes you."

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak, said



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Eva Green in the film, "300: Rise of an Empire."

Associated Press

the "300" franchise "translates to virtually every culture. Every country can appreciate the visuals of these movies."

The week's other new wide release, 20th Century Fox's animated "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," opened in second with \$32.5 million. Though the performance was better than some expected, it's a relatively low total for a film that cost about \$140 million to make. The film is based on the cartoon about a time-traveling boy and his brilliant dog from "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show." Some of the family film market was likely taken by Warner Bros.' hit "The Lego Movie," which added \$11 million in its fifth weekend.

The Liam Neeson thriller "Non-Stop" slid to third place with \$15.4 million in the Universal release's second weekend after topping the box office last week.

In limited release, "The Grand Budapest Hotel" made an astounding average of \$200,000 on four screens in New York and Los Angeles.

The specialty studio also celebrated the best picture Oscar win for "12 Years a Slave" with a notable bump of \$2.2 million, even though it was released on DVD and video-on-demand Tuesday. □

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'Holy grail of guitars' among those in NY auction

ULA ILNYTZKY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—The "holy grail of guitars" is among the hundreds of rare and vintage acoustic guitars going on the auction block in New York next month.

California collector Hank Risan is offering some of his musical instruments for auction by Guernsey's on April 2 and April 3. The 265 pieces from his collection are considered among the finest of vintage guitars to come to auction in terms of rarity, original construction and condition, the auction house says.

A wide range of makers are represented, including Gibson, Gretsch, Washburn, Stromberg and D'Angelico.

The earliest instrument in Risan's collection dates to 1840; the newest is a 2000



Arlan Ettinger, right, President of Guernsey's, auction and intern Zoe Cooperan, unveil a 1939 D'Angelico New Yorker guitar during a press preview, Wednesday March 5, 2014 in New York. The guitar is among a collection of 265 extremely rare guitars from a single individual Guernsey's will auction April 2 and 3. Associated Press

re-creation of a 1930 Martin masterpiece, an OM-45 Deluxe. Both the re-creation and the original will be in the auction.

"The OM-45 Deluxe is the holy grail of guitars," Guernsey's President Arlan Ettinger said. Only 14 were ever made.

Among other highlights are a 1900 Manuel Ramirez Flamenco and a 1939 D'Angelico New Yorker.

John D'Angelico was a guitar maker with a studio in Greenwich Village during the first half of the 20th century; his guitars have been described by some "as the Stradivarius of guitars," Ettinger said.

Pre-sale estimates of the instruments were still being worked out Friday.

Several previously celebrity-owned guitars also will be auctioned off: a 1941 Gibson SJ-200 played by

Stephen Stills of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; a 1967 Gibson SJN Country Western used by Mick Jagger on his 1987 album "Primitive Cool"; and a 1959 Gibson J-200 that Eric Clapton once owned.

The sale also includes a handful of mandolins, including a late 1920s Style 2221 Regal Superior crafted from Brazilian Rosewood with inlaid pearl vine inserts. "These are not simply handsome-looking, finely crafted objects. They are, first and foremost, musical instruments and were created to be played,"

Risan, of Santa Cruz, is founder of the virtual Museum of Musical Instruments and CEO of Media Rights Technologies Inc. According to his website, his first guitar was a vintage Martin purchased when he was 16. □

'Gravity' director Alfonso Cuaron turns to TV

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oscar-winning director Alfonso Cuaron was looking for an anti-"Gravity" follow up to his blockbuster space film, and he found it with a rare excursion into television. Cuaron and sci-fi auteur J.J. Abrams ("Lost," the "Star Trek" movies) are executive producers of "Believe," a drama about a child whose supernatural powers put her and the world at risk.

The premise came to him while he waited during "the endless process of special effects" on "Gravity," Cuaron said at a media event.

"Well, first of all, I wanted to do something in which people were not floating," Cuaron said, drawing laughs.

"I wanted to do something more grounded, and we wanted to do it with real people, real locations," he continued. "And I wanted to do something really exciting, but, at the same time, something that would

be highly emotional."

He recounted sharing the idea with Abrams and his reaction: "Wow."

The pair met more than two decades ago and, Abrams said, "I've wanted to work with him desperately ever since. I was a huge fan of every movie that he made, and each one made me more and more desperate to try and figure this out."

When Cuaron contacted him with the idea for "Believe," Abrams said, it created the opportunity for him and his company, Bad Robot Productions.

Johnny Sequoyah stars as Bo, a 10-year-old who appears to have won the special-gifts lottery at birth: She can levitate, has the power of telekinesis, can control nature and see the future.

But she can't control or understand her powers and is at risk from those who would use them to conquer Earth. Delroy Lindo co-stars as Bo's protector, with Jack McLaughlin as a wrongfully imprisoned



In this Sunday, March 2, 2014 file photo, Alfonso Cuaron poses in the press room with the award for best film editing for "Gravity" during the 86th Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

death row inmate enlisted in the effort.

The cast also includes Jamie Chung and Kyle MacLachlan. A preview airs at 10 p.m. EDT Monday, with the show debuting in its 9 p.m. EDT Sunday slot March 16.

Cuaron has dabbled lightly in TV in years past, but big-screen projects like "Gravity," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" and "Children of Men" have been his focus. □



This Aug. 13, 2013 file photo shows Vince Vaughn at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

Vince Vaughn brings comedy festival to Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Actor Vince Vaughn is bringing a new comedy festival to Nashville this spring with live tapings and stand-up acts to be held at the city's music venues. Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Festival on May 15-18 will include comedians Aziz Ansari, Rodney Carrington and Dennis Miller among others.

Comedian Marc Maron will do a live interview with Vaughn for Maron's podcast and Chris

Hardwick will shoot his late night Comedy Central talk show "@Midnight" from Nashville.

Miller will perform at the historic Ryman Auditorium, while Demetri Martin is performing at Jack White's Third Man Records. □

Little R-S-P-E-C-T



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2014 New York Times

If you can't spell it, you can't get it. President Barack Obama pulled a Quayle Thursday night at a White House performance by the women of soul and muffed the title of Aretha Franklin's anthem. "R-S-P-E-C-T," he said, looking a bit confused and eliciting laughter.

When Patti LaBelle took the stage, she told Obama, "Baby, you've got swag."

Swag and respect are exactly what the president needs. He's got a swag gap with Russia. His administration, after belatedly figuring out what was going on in Ukraine, is improvising as the uber-swaggering Vladimir Putin once more rolls in with tanks anywhere he likes.

But the president is severely constrained in how he can respond, given that the Europeans are reluctant to be very punitive because they're worried about their energy supplies and have to play nice with the bully on their borders.

He's doing what seems appropriate at this point - putting a ban on U.S. visas, imposing financial sanctions on "individuals and entities" responsible for Russia's invasion of Crimea, and trying to horse-whisper the Botoxed, bare-chested man on horseback whose eyes read "KGB," as John McCain likes to say.

The right wing seems risible, swooning over Pooty-Poot, as W. dubbed Putin. They gleefully claim the Russian strongman is Carterizing Obama and act huffy that the only one parachuting into Kiev is John Kerry. "What are you going to do, send the 101st Airborne into Crimea?" says Terry McCarthy, the president of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. "The way Republicans are dumping on the president, saying anything short of Armageddon shows that he's weak, is silly. It's kind of shocking that foreign policy, which used to be nonpartisan, now becomes partisan so quickly."

Speaker John Boehner said congressional Republicans were "trying to give the president tools that he might employ that would strengthen his hand in dealing with this very difficult problem."

More calculating conservatives pounced. Trying to rehabilitate himself, Marco Rubio told a CPAC audience here that America must "stand up to the spread of totalitarianism."

Sarah Palin, who seems ever more viperish, deployed her Yoda syntax with Sean Hannity: "People are looking at Putin as one who wrestles bears and drills for oil. They look at our president as one who wears mom jeans and equivocates and bloviates." Actually, the jeans the president

wore in the Oval Office, talking to Putin on the phone last weekend, looked good.

And his Russia response is a positive contrast with Syria, where Obama came across as navel-gazing and feckless when he dithered and then drew a "red line" against Bashar Assad using chemical weapons. He was still explaining to the press why he had decided on military action while Republicans and Democrats in Congress and the Brits were yanking the rug out from under him.

The place where Obama really looks weak right now is at home. Even after Democrats changed the filibuster rule and rigged the game in the Senate to get nominees through on a majority vote, the White House got whacked over its nominee to lead the Justice Department's civil rights division.

Bryan Cranston has said he hopes Obama comes to see his new L.B.J. play on Broadway to learn a little about horse-trading. The sooner, the better. The president and Harry Reid upended the entire Senate to get people like Debo Adebile through, and they couldn't get him through - and in the area of civil rights, so crucial to Obama's legacy.

Obama called the defeat "a travesty," but the White House seemed oblivious to the fact that they were putting Democratic senators in red states in a squeeze between the Fraternal Order of Police and civil rights groups. Adebile had worked on an NAACP legal team that filed a Supreme Court brief in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a writer and former Black Panther convicted in the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia police officer, Daniel Faulkner. Abu-Jamal called himself a political prisoner and turned into such an international cause célèbre that a Paris suburb named a street for him.

If Obama was determined to choose Adebile, his team needed to sell him adeptly and promptly. But Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania said there were still "open wounds" about Faulkner in his state, and by the time Casey and six other Democrats began to run away, it was too late. It also didn't help Obama's swag that Reid and Nancy Pelosi peremptorily declared the president's trade agenda DOA for this session, showing that he doesn't have the juice to override them on a key part of his economic plan. If the president doesn't get it together, he's headed for a big, bad midterm "thumpin'" in the memorable word of W., who experienced one six years into his reign.

It's tricky for Democrats: Obama is unpopular, so they want to distance themselves from him in the tough races in red states. But the more they run away from him, the weaker he looks and the more unpopular he gets. (Gallup has his approval rating dropping to 41 percent, a danger zone for Democrats running for re-election.)

If the Republicans win the Senate, they'll get in and find out they can't pass legislation either. Then they'll look bad just in time to help make a Democratic presidential candidate look good. □



CPAC: Four Factions, No Favorite



ROSS DOUTHAT
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This is a season of possibility for Republican politicians. Their party is poised to do well in November.

Their Democratic opponents are stuck in neutral - waiting for Hillary, praying for Obamacare. And thanks to a few strategically placed traffic cones, there is no front-runner for the GOP nomination in 2016, which means that more prominent Republicans than usual are dreaming the presidential dream.

Quite a few of them brought those dreams to the just-concluded Conservative Political Action Conference, jostling for the attention of activists, chasing cameras or being chased by them, trading compliments and subtle digs. A few, like the still-in-damage-control Chris Christie, were just there to pay their respects. But most were trying to ace CPAC's big audition, and prove that they could play the One True Conservative in the 2016 race.

The question is whether that role will actually exist. We're accustomed to a narrative of Republican politics that pits the Tea Party against the establishment, the right against the center right. But that has always been an oversimplification, and in a wide-open presidential campaign, it's likely to fit political reality more poorly than usual.

A better framework is suggested by Henry Olsen, writing in *The National Interest*, who argues that Republican presidential campaigns are usually defined by four factions rather than two. One faction is centrist (think John McCain's 2000 supporters, or Jon Huntsman's rather smaller 2012 support), one is moderately

conservative (think the typical Mitt Romney or Bob Dole voter), one is socially conservative (think Mike Huckabee or Rick Santorum backers), and one is very conservative but more secular (think Gingrich voters last time, or Steve Forbes voters much further back). The moderately conservative faction holds the balance of power, which is why the party usually flirts with ideologues but settles down with a safer, establishment-endorsed choice. But different campaigns take very different paths to this result.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan basically worked from the right to the center, consolidating secular and religious conservatives and then wooing enough moderate conservatives to win.

In 1996, Bob Dole relied on moderate conservatives to fend off a centrist (Lamar Alexander), a social conservative (Pat Buchanan) and a secular conservative (Forbes).

In 2000, George W. Bush used support from moderate conservatives and religious conservatives to defeat both McCain's centrist insurgency and Forbes' lesser challenge from the right.

In 2008, McCain combined his original centrist base with enough moderate conservatives to win the nomination - a trick Romney basically imitated in 2012.

Before the traffic problems in Fort Lee, Christie seemed poised to follow in Romney's and McCain's footsteps, uniting moderates and moderate conservatives and then trying to outlast whichever challengers emerged from the religious and nonreligious right.

But with Christie weakened, there are suddenly almost as many paths as there are plausible candidates.

The New Jersey governor could still follow McCain's 2008 path to victory, but he could also be marginalized, Huntsman-style, as a "centrists only" candidate - especially if a Scott Walker, a Paul Ryan or a Jeb Bush consolidated the support of moderate conservatives.

Then there's the potential Ted Cruz coalition, which could look

like Reagan redux: secular conservatives plus religious conservatives to start, and then just enough moderate conservatives to win. But Cruz would need to consolidate the religious faction early, which is why he should be hoping that Huckabee and Santorum decide to forgo another run.

And then there is the fascinating case of Rand Paul, who has a potentially formidable base in two factions that don't usually ally - moderates who like his social libertarianism and secular conservatives who like his economic views.

Confused yet? Imagine being a Republican strategist or donor, trying to figure out where to place your bets. And I haven't even given you the Rick Perry and Bobby Jindal and John Kasich scenarios!

But let me conclude with one that seems a little more likely: a rerun of Bush's 2000 path, in which Marco Rubio wins by uniting religious and moderate conservatives.

Rubio had a tough 2013, thanks to his unsuccessful immigration push, and he lacks the ideologically committed support of a Paul or Cruz or Huckabee. But his domestic-policy forays (first on poverty, soon on taxes) have gotten smarter since the immigration debacle, and events in Venezuela and Crimea may be making his hawkish foreign policy vision more appealing to conservatives.

Moreover, as much as the party and the country have changed since the Bush era, the best way to unify the GOP is still to build bridges between religious conservatives and moderate conservatives - in effect, to seem relatable to Santorum voters while reassuring Romney voters. And Rubio, in affect and background and positioning, may be the right politician for that task.

Remember, I said "may." He's not the front-runner, because there is no front-runner. There are only factions waiting for their champion, and a party waiting for its biggest fight in years. □

Tonight at 8PM at Palm Beach Plaza Mall: Aruba's Majestic Carnival Season Comes To Life!

PALM BEACH - Palm Beach Plaza Mall new majestic carnival season has started at Aruba's largest mall. The Aruba Carnival is a thrilling show of over-the-top pagentry, produced by thousands and delighting and uniting the entire country. Here's the scoop on how it began.

Carnival was born in 1954, as a series of small street festivals. The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944.

The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by an Aruba Festi-



val - a large parade in San Nicolas comprised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to

Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small



parades sprouted here and there. Tonight at 8PM, Palm Beach Plaza Mall will have a great Carnival Show where you can experience for yourself the taste of Aruba's Carnival culture with the opportunity to take pictures with the majestic carnival dancers with carnival costumes. Come and enjoy the show! □



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